

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 311373

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 311373 ACTION MARTINIQUE 27 DEC 76

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 311373

FOLLOWING REPEAT EC BRUSSELS 12568 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
PARIS COPENHAGEN PARAMARIBO DTD 21 DEC

QTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 12568

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EEC, EFIS, PLOS, FR
SUBJECT: US SHRIMP FISHERY OFF FRENCH GUIANA

REF: PARIS 37507

1. UPON RECEIPT REFTTEL WE CALLED ON GALLAGHER TO REPORT
FRENCH INTENTION EXTEND JURISDICTION TO 200 MILES OFF GUAINA
ON JANUARY 1 AND TO SEEK HIS VIEWS ON WHAT WE SHOULD DO NEXT.

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GALLAGHER SAID HE WAS STILL UNINFORMED ABOUT FRENCH INTENTION,
BUT REAFFIRMED THAT, SHOULD THEY EXTEND, AREA WILL FALL WITHIN
COMPETENCE OF COMMON FISHERIES POLICY AND THEREFORE TO
COMMISSION TO NEGOTIATE AGREEMENT WITH US. HE HOPED THAT,
PENDING AN AGREEMENT, EC COULD SIMPLY TELL US THAT WE CAN
CONTINUE TO FISH AS WE PREVIOUSLY HAD FOR INITIAL 3 MONTH
PERIOD, BUT SAID THAT HE MAY NEED EXPLICIT COUNCIL AUTHORITY
TO DO SO. FIRST COUNCIL TO WHICH HE COULD BRING SUCH
PROPOSAL WILL BE IN MID-JANUARY.

2. GALLAGHER AGREED IT WOULD BE UNFAIR AND UNWISE TO ENFORCE JURISDICTION EARLY JANUARY SIMPLY BECAUSE COUNCIL HAD NOT MET, AND SAID HE WOULD URGENTLY LOOK INTO OTHER LEGAL OPTIONS. IN MEANTIME, HE ASKED WE SUPPLY ASAP FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- A) HOW MANY US BOATS WANT TO FISH IN THE AREA; HOW MUCH DO THEY CATCH AND WHAT SPECIES?
- B) WHICH TIMES DURING THE YEAR DO US BOATS FISH OFF GUIANA?

3. COMMENT: CLEARLY, IF THE FISHERY INVOLVES OPERATIONS IN JANUARY, THE PROBLEM OF LICENSING BOATS IS BOTH URGENT AND MORE COMPLICATED THAN IF IT OCCURS LATER IN YEAR. FURTHER, UNTIL FRENCH FORMALLY NOTIFY COMMISSION THAT ZONE OFF GUIANA HAS BEEN EXTENDED, COMMISSION CANNOT ACT AT ALL. AS MINIMUM, WE NEED TO KNOW IMMEDIATELY WHETHER US VESSELS FISH AREA IN JANUARY. END COMMENT

4. GALLAGHER REAFFIRMED COMMISSION WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE AGREEMENT WITH US ON US FISHERIES IN EC WATERS. HOWEVER, HE COULD NOT CONFIRM THIS FORMALLY UNTIL AFTER JANUARY 1.

5. ACTION REQUESTED:
IN ADDITION TO SUPPLYING INFORMATION REQUESTED PARA 2 AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, WE REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO DELIVER FORMAL NOTE TO COMMISSION (TEXT TO BE SUPPLIED BY WASHINGTON) ASKING FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON AGREEMENT TO FISH IN EC WATERS, SO THAT
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WE ARE FORMALLY ON RECORD BEFORE JANUARY 1. NOTE SHOULD REFER TO CONVERSATIONS HELD WITH COMMISSION ON DECEMBER 13-14, DURING WHICH US REPS DECLARED US READINESS TO OPEN SUCH NEGOTIATIONS. HINTON UNQTE ROBINSON.

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